

Wildfire Smoke Relief Act

Introduced by Congressman Joe Neguse (CO-02)

The bill is cosponsored by Representatives Stansbury (D-NM), Blumenauer (D-OR), and Matsui (D-CA), and was introduced by Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) in the 117th Congress, read [here](#).

As longer and worsening wildfire seasons present dangerous consequences for the Western United States, it is imperative that communities are prepared for the consequences of fire-related disasters, from structural damage to health effects.

Unhealthy air quality caused by wildfire smoke can be especially harmful to individuals with pre-existing respiratory issues or those at the highest risk of related illness. This includes those 65 years of age or older, children and infants, low-income families, pregnant women, and those with chronic health conditions worsened by wildfire smoke in areas with unhealthy air quality caused by wildfires.

The Wildfire Smoke Relief Act will ensure that these at-risk individuals are supported in the event of a wildfire by:

- Authorizing FEMA to provide low-cost home improvements and smoke-inhalation prevention equipment such as air filtration units, respirators, masks, ventilation equipment, portable air conditioning units, and other low-cost equipment to individuals at high risk.
- Authorizing FEMA to provide transitional housing assistance in any case in which smoke-inhalation equipment is not sufficient to mitigate the risk of wildfire smoke-related illness.

As wildfires worsen during the summer months, we should prepare for the health impacts of wildfire smoke by providing this critical assistance to those most vulnerable in our communities.